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NIXON DISPATCHING ADDITIONAL B-52'S

10 to 20 Craft Are Ordered
to Reinforce Air Armada to
Counter Enemy Offensive

By TERENCE SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 4—The United States tonight ordered the deployment of 10 to 20 more B-52 bombers to Indochina to strengthen the American ability to respond to the new North Vietnamese offensive.

The new planes will bolster the existing fleet of strategic fortresses by up to 25 per cent. Eighty more of the giant bombers already are stationed at airfields in Thailand and Guam.

The Pentagon spokesman, Jerry W. Friedheim, declined comment on the B-52 deployment, except to observe that President Nixon had expressed his readiness "to take whatever steps are necessary to protect the remaining United States forces in South Vietnam."

Meanwhile, the State Department asserted that what it said was North Vietnam's extensive use of Soviet supplied tanks and heavy artillery in its five-day offensive had added "a new factor to the battlefield situation in South Vietnam."

The department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, said that Soviet equipment had permitted the North Vietnamese to wage "conventional warfare rather than their traditional guerrilla-style attacks."

Mr. McCloskey's stress on Soviet equipment appeared to be an effort to provide additional public justification in case of a decision to renew the bombing of North Vietnam.

He specifically said the United States was still holding open all its retaliatory options, including resumed air strikes deep into North Vietnam while it continued to review the military situation.

Privately, Administration officials said that while President Nixon might order heavy bombing of North Vietnam he had not made a decision.

At the White House, the deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, said that Mr. Nixon was keeping in close touch with the Vietnam fighting through his advisers.

For the second consecutive day, Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, presided at a meeting of the Washington Special Action Group to discuss the retaliatory options available to the United States.

The group, which is composed of senior officials from the State and Defense Departments and the Central Intelligence Agency, meets during emergencies. The officials conferred for an hour and 15 minutes today and are expected to meet again tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the President was receiving conflicting advice from Congress on what the American response to the enemy attacks should be.

The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said that he opposed the use of American air power or combat troops.

"Bombing the north will not bring about a settlement," he said. "I mean, we would just lose more planes, increase the number of prisoners of war and decrease the chances for a negotiated settlement."

He repeated his call for a complete American withdrawal from Vietnam, adding: "This is a time for Vietnamization to fish or cut bait."

On the Republican side, Senator Barry Goldwater argued the opposite view.

The President will have to make a decision, he said, whether "we continue the dilly-dally bombing" of enemy supplies as they are shipped south, or "go in earnest at the source of supplies in the north, including the harbor at Haiphong."

Mr. Goldwater left no doubt that he favored the second course.

The Administration took steps today to insure that it would speak with one voice. Its three principal spokesmen, Mr. McCloskey, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, and Daniel Z. Henkin, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, met in Mr. Ziegler's office this morning to coordinate their statements.

In subsequent briefings, they or their deputies all made a point of stressing that full-scale conventional fighting was now going on.

Mr. Friedheim, Mr. Henkin's deputy at the Pentagon, described the fighting as "a conventional combined-arms battle with the enemy employing tanks, heavy artillery, heavy anti-aircraft fire, engineers and fresh supplies for its troops."

Mr. McCloskey characterized it as a "naked attack by the North Vietnamese military into South Vietnam."

Troop Freeze Is Implied

Although the spokesmen said the new assaults would not interfere with the President's program for troop withdrawals, other officials implied that Mr. Nixon might freeze American troop strength in Vietnam at 69,000 after May 1.

That decision, and the question of resumed bombing of the north, will depend on the events of the next few days, the officials said.

Despite his stress on the role of the Soviet-supplied equipment, Mr. McCloskey backed away from suggestions that the attacks might effect a major change in United States relations with the Soviet Union. He specifically said that there was no reconsideration of the President's intention to visit the Soviet Union beginning May 22.

The spokesman said he did not know whether the Administration would approach the Soviet Union to persuade Hanoi to limit its offensive. But other officials said there was no reason to believe Moscow would be responsive to such a request.

Rather, the deliberate emphasis on the role of the Soviet equipment in the spokesmen's statements today seemed to be designed to underscore the magnitude of the foreign support the North Vietnamese are receiving.

So far as the American response is concerned, officials at the State Department noted that increased air strikes were the only viable option for the United States to pursue, since the American combat forces had dwindled to the point where they could no longer be effective.

The officials said they doubted that Mr. Nixon would seek to re-introduce additional American forces.

"This has got to be a test for the Vietnamese," one official said, "and they have to pass it on their own."

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U.S. Denies Crisis on Vietnam

By GEORGE SHERMAN
Star Staff Writer

The Nixon administration has carefully escalated verbal attacks on Hanoi's invasion of South Vietnam while insisting there is no crisis here over what to do on the ground.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey, chief vehicle for transmitting Nixon concern, for the first time yesterday injected a mention of the Russians into his discussion of the "naked attack" on South Vietnam.

"I want to call attention to the fact," he told a news briefing, "that these (North Vietnamese) units are supported in a very large way by heavy military equipment from the Soviet Union."

Both he and Pentagon press spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim emphasized that the full-scale attack by North Vietnamese across the demilitarized zone shows a massive shift to sophisticated conventional warfare, and a turn away from the more traditional guerrilla pattern.

Russians Equip SAMs

Later, intelligence sources said that \$45 million of the estimated \$100 million military aid sent by the Russians last year to Hanoi went into equipping 10 of the SAM 2 surface-to-air missile battalions now set up in and around the demilitarized zone.

The \$100 million aid for 1971 said that \$45 million of the lion sent in 1970.

But at the White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, who is meeting daily with McCloskey, insisted that presidential concern over the invasion has not reached crisis proportions. Nixon yesterday was still "assessing" the situation, spending "some" but not "most" of his time on it, and there was no "crisis atmosphere" at the White House, he said.

Both the White House and State Department denied quickly — McCloskey answered "No, no" — that Soviet support for the invasion was causing Nixon to reconsider his planned trip to Moscow starting May 22.

(The White House announced yesterday that Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz would visit Moscow next week

to open talks on addition sale of American grain and feed to the Russians.)

A fear among some informed sources is that whatever retaliation Nixon decides upon in North Vietnam may cause the Russians to cancel the President's own Moscow visit. For that reason, McCloskey's official mention of Soviet involvement was kept purposely low-keyed and sketchy. He referred only to the added SAM missiles and heavy tanks supplied by Moscow to Hanoi.

Ziegler said afterwards that he had "nothing to add." Furthermore, he maintained that the daily meetings at the White House of the Washington Special Action Group, chaired by presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger and including top lieutenants from the State and Defense Departments and the Central Intelligence Agency, have been "routine, to a degree." He refused to call the group a "crisis-management" body.

The universal suspicion in official circles is that the President will order heavy bombing of the North Vietnamese staging and other supply sites just above the DMZ once the weather clears in the North. Officials point to a warning Nixon made in a press conference Dec. 10, 1970.

He said that if he concludes that the North Vietnamese, "by their infiltration, threaten our remaining forces, if they thereby develop a capacity and proceed possibly to use that capacity to increase the level of fighting in South Vietnam, then I will order the bombing of the military sites in North Vietnam, the passes that lead from North Vietnam into South Vietnam, the military complexes, the military supply lines."

Officials note that this course of action, at least initially, would not mean resumption of bombing of the highly populated areas of North Vietnam above the 20th Parallel.

But yesterday Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., made his first attack on the Nixon handling of the Vietnam war and called upon the President to order an all-out bombing assault on North Vietnamese

supply depots, including Haiphong harbor if necessary.

"The President is faced with a decision," said Goldwater in a Senate speech. "... He must make up his mind whether to continue dilly-dally bombing or go into the northern part of North Vietnam to the source of supply."

Although it was his first public expression of differences with Nixon over handling of the war, the senator added that he still supports Nixon's overall policy in Indochina.

His words contrasted with those earlier of Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, who said he would oppose resumption of the bombing "under any circumstances."

"It's time for Vietnamization to fish or cut bait — to produce or else," said the Montana Democrat. "We must get out, lock, stock and barrel."

Sen. George McGovern, who won a victory yesterday in the Wisconsin Democratic presidential primary, made the same point. He repeated his position that it is time for the President to set a definite date for total U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

Humphrey Cautious

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who finished third in the primary, was more cautious. While predicting failure of the North Vietnamese drive, he said that continued American air power in support of the South Vietnamese is necessary to keep the situation stable as American troop withdrawal continues.

U.S. officials here admit great puzzlement over the ultimate intentions of Hanoi in this conventional-type invasion. Perhaps the best-informed guess is that made public today by South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu — that the North Vietnamese are trying to take a limited amount of South Vietnamese territory for bargaining purposes.

Yesterday both the Viet Cong and Hanoi representatives in Paris made a formal proposal that the peace talks normal Thursday session be held this week. But both Washington and Saigon — who suspended the talks two weeks ago —

scorned the proposal. McCloskey said that chances are "dim" for public or private negotiations so long as the military invasion continues.

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